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photo by Spc. Anishka Forbes

First Sergeant Robert Cook Jr. takes the guidon during the Change of Responsibilities ceremony outside of Bldg. 9828 Feb. 2.

Big Dogs get new first sergeant

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

The Big Dogs got a new itop dog, as 1st Sgt. Robert Cook Jr. took over for 1st Sgt. Ricky Eden during a Change of Responsibilities ceremony Feb. 2.

Eden leaves Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade en route to the world of golfing, fishing and other retirees and he will be sorely missed, according to Capt. Paul Kirschbaum, who spent his first eight months as the commander of HHC, 704th MI Brigade with Eden as his first sergeant.

As a commander, your first concern has to be about the quality of the first sergeant, Kirschbaum said. When I first arrived we sat down several times to get to know each other. We shared our concerns about the standards and administration that we expected from this unit. From that conversation, we knew we were on the same page.

When asked why his first eight months in command have been so enjoyable, Kirschbaum quickly points to Eden.

Plain and simply First Sergeant Eden was a great first sergeant, he said. He was very personable, by nature. He always understood his soldiers and looked out for their best interests.

So it should come as no surprise that Kirschbaum stuck with what worked the

second time around as well.

One of the first things First Sergeant Cook and I did was to sit down and have a similar talk, Kirschbaum said. A good first sergeant is absolutely essential. A unit can have a bad commander, and survive because of a good first sergeant. But if that same unit has a good commander and a bad first sergeant, the unit will be mediocre at best. It is, without a doubt, one of the most important positions in the brigade. Based on that, I feel that First Sergeant Cook will be an outstanding first sergeant.

Cook admits his Army career began a little backwards.

I went to college first, he said. I majored in Soviet international studies, which no longer exists. And I really liked that course of study. I didn't think I had the qualifications to go work for a major corporation, so I looked towards the Army.

So Cook turned to his local recruiter.

I told the recruiter that I had taken two years of Russian in high school, majored in the subject in college and even studied there abroad, Cook said. So I enlisted as a linguist.

A Polish linguist.

Originally they were going to make me a Syrian linguist, he said. But I broke my ankle while on the delayed entry program and they ended up switching me to Polish. Everything kind of worked out. They're both Slovak languages.

Cook can honestly say that there aren't many, if any soldiers out there, who have taken the same route he has over his 18-year military career.

During his last assignment, Cook was a senior arms controlled inspector/interpreter and senior enlisted advisor at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, at Dulles International Airport, Washington D.C. He has also been assigned to Fort Hood, Texas; Berlin (during the time period when the Berlin Wall came down); the Military Language Program here; and the George C. Marshall Center in Garmisch, Germany.

Cook says he will use the lessons he has learned throughout his previous 18 years to get the job done as the HHC 704th MI Brigade first sergeant.

The nature of this unit makes it the most challenging company of the brigade, he said. Between the mission, the unit composition and the number of soldiers there are always challenges for the first sergeant.

To keep himself on his toes, Cook has set a few goals for himself.

While I am here I will do the best job I can. The legacy a first sergeant leaves behind is his soldiers. If I can help train and mentor a few soldiers and put them in a better position than when I arrived, I will be happy with my job here, he said.



Capt. Jenifer Snyder is the Garrison Tax Center's officer in charge. The center, Building 2257, Huber Road, opened for the season Monday.

Garrison tax center now open for business

STORY AND PHOTO BY CAROL CUMMINGS
SoundOFF!

Need help with taxes? Have a military ID card?

Volunteer unit tax advisers will prepare federal and state taxes for valid ID cardholders free through April 16.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program sponsored by the Garrison's Office of the Staff Judge Advocate includes no-cost electronic filing at either the Garrison Tax Center or the 70th Intelligence Wing's Tax Center. Both are open for the season.

The Garrison Tax Center held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday.

Staff Judge Advocate Lt. Col. Christopher Garcia made a few remarks.

"This is a great example of green-suiters standing together. The Army community is willing to take care of itself," Garcia said.

Garcia estimated that volunteers on temporary assignment from the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade would save service members in the neighborhood of \$200,000 in income tax preparation fees.

The four volunteer income tax assistants, or VITAs, are Privates 1st Class Christina Lopez-Clendening, Raymond Taylor and Mitchell Ray and Spc. Chekita Hall. They are working with Capt. Jenifer Snyder, the officer in charge; Sgt. Selina Dent, the noncommissioned officer in charge; and civilian tax technician Jerry Rose, who has been instrumental

in the operation of the center in past years.

Installation Commander Col. Michael J. Stewart also addressed the crowd.

"Saving money on preparation fees is very, very important (for) service members," Stewart said.

"All of the legal deductions that our service and family members are entitled to are well deserved. Thanks to the terrific job the VITAs do, our men and women come out ahead," Stewart said.

Garcia said one of the benefits of having taxes done through the center is the familiarity the office has with unique military needs.

"We have more experience dealing with the military in taxation issues than commercial providers and I think that can make a big difference," Garcia said.

To begin the process, active-duty or family member cardholders should call their Unit Tax Adviser (see list) to set up an appointment. UTAs will also be available to answer questions.

UTAs can handle most returns, according to Snyder. But, if in doubt, consult him or her initially before scheduling an appointment.

Retirees can contact one of the tax centers directly to have their taxes prepared and to file their federal forms electronically.

Snyder also offered these tips.

When getting your taxes prepared, bring the following materials:

Social Security card; a voided check; W2s, 1099s and other forms sent by employers and financial institutions; a copy of your 1999 tax return; and any state tax forms you may have received.

(UTAs have many state forms, but not all.)

In addition, cardholders who claim a deduction for child care expenses need the provider's full name, Social Security number and address. (If the child attends off-post child care, the employer's tax identification number must also be provided.)

Garrison UTAs or cardholders can set up an appointment with the Garrison Tax Center, Snyder said.

Cardholders who file through the 70th IW can leave their completed form with their tax adviser.

"Service members should contact their unit UTAs and the UTAs will give them all the information they need," said 70th IW Tax Office Coordinator Corinne Whitworth.

"(Their UTA) doesn't have to be from their branch of service, (he or she) just has to be in the vicinity of where they work," Whitworth added.

The Garrison Tax Center is in Building 2257, Huber Road, and operates 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

For more information, call 677-9829.

The 70th Intelligence Wing Tax Center is in Building 9804, Room 104, Canine Road. It is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. For more information, call 677-0448.

(This article is courtesy of the SoundOFF!)



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704th MI Brigade Mission

The 704th Military Intelligence Brigade conducts continuous full-spectrum signals intelligence, computer network and information security operations directly, and through NSA to satisfy National, Joint, Combined and Army information superiority requirements.

Focus

To ensure mission accomplishment in an ethical environment while providing opportunities for individual professional growth and satisfaction, we must have:

- Competent and caring leaders,
- Well trained and fit soldiers,
- Efficient, effective unit operations,
- Unit cohesion and pride,
- Planned, orderly growth and change.

U.S. Military Academy: two centuries of serving the nation

BY CAPT. PAUL KIRSCHBAUM
HHC, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade

With the purpose of providing the nation with leaders of character who serve the common defense, the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point has been the nation's premier military leadership school for nearly two centuries. Originally a fort located on the bank of the Hudson River in New York, the Academy has its roots in revolutionary America.

General George Washington personally considered West Point to be of great strategic value against the British, and placed his headquarters there in 1779. From these early beginnings, West Point was formally established in 1802 as the nation's military academy. Since then West Point and its graduates have played a major role in every conflict our country has engaged in.

From the Mexican-American War to the Civil War, from Vietnam and

Korea to Kuwait, West Point graduates have contributed greatly to the strength and vitality of America's Armed Forces.

President Thomas Jefferson originally signed the Academy into existence on March 16, 1802. The mission of the Military Academy was to provide commissioned officers to lead the young nation's military and reduce its wartime dependence on foreign military experts.

In 1817, Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, "Father of the Military Academy" and school Superintendent, restructured West Point's academics and built the groundwork for the rigorous military and ethical training required of graduates.

USMA's academics became centered on a civil engineering curriculum, providing all graduates a strong background in mathematics and the physical sciences. As a result, USMA-trained Army engineers designed and built many of the early railway lines and bridge systems in

America. The Academy also provided the necessary moral and ethical character building that its graduates would need in the difficult wartime years to come.

Starting with the Mexican-American War, Academy graduates directed the armies that built the foundations of modern America and established her place as a world leader.

During the Civil War, General Grant, Lee, Sherman and Jackson fought over the future of a nation divided. Also known as the "Brother's War," the Civil War pitted graduates of the Academy against each other for the first and last time.

In both World Wars, former cadets like Pershing, Eisenhower, Patton and MacArthur fought to protect a world threatened by imperialism and genocide on the shores of Europe. In Korea, Vietnam, and even Desert Storm, USMA graduates like Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and Lt. Gen. Hal Moore, author of "We Were Soldiers Once...And Young," played an impor-

tant role in determining the outcome of the nation's wars. Without them the history of our nation and world might be very different. As some at the Academy say, much of the history we teach was made by people we taught.

Throughout the nearly two centuries of its existence, graduates of West Point have been charged with leading young Americans into combat. "The Long Gray Line" has had an immeasurable impact on America and the freedom and prosperity that we enjoy today. Though changes have taken place over the last 199 years, the cornerstones of the West Point experience remain firm.

Even as the Academy nears its bicentennial next year, the core values stay the same: Duty, Honor, Country.

(Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles by Capt. Paul Kirschbaum on the U.S. Military Academy. Kirschbaum graduated from the academy in 1995.)

Army continues to enlist soldiers, reenlist families

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS WILLENE ORR
Brigade Reenlistment

Retention is on the upswing in this brigade! Many thanks to all for your continued support of the Brigade Retention Program. It is no secret soldiers are reenlisting to stay with the winning team - the U.S. Army! The old cliché that has often been stated, "We enlist soldiers but reenlist families," is definitely true in this brigade.

One such story is that of Sgt. 1st Class Ernest Altwater, a platoon sergeant assigned to the 741st Military Intelligence Battalion. He celebrated the new millennium at the stroke of 12:01 a.m. Jan. 1, 2001, with a promotion and a reenlistment ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance located in the National Security Agency Building. His wife, Staff Sgt. Claudine Altwater, assigned to 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion, was present along with their three children. Their two sons, Charlie and James, pinned the rank on their father. What a way to bring in the New Year!

Another such story is that of Sgt. Jay Sheppard, chaplain's assistant for 704th Military Intelligence Brigade. He also reenlisted Jan. 1, for two years for current station stabilization. But what was even more unique about his reenlistment was the location. His ceremony was held at the National Archives Museum in Washington, DC. He was administered the oath right in front of the U.S. Constitution by Capt. Paul Kirschbaum, commander, HHC, 704th MI Brigade. His wife, Sandra Sheppard, and four children were present also. That's what retention is all about - reenlisting soldiers and reenlisting families!

The above are only a few of the great news stories that are happening in retention. We encourage soldiers to take advantage of all the historic sites in this area in order to make their reenlistment ceremony a special occasion for all to remember.

Additionally, in order to assist this command in retaining the greatest number of highly qualified soldiers in the Army, Col. Deborah Beckworth, brigade com-



photo by Spc. Brian Murphy

Cpl. Tina Jones, brigade strength manager (right) recently reenlisted for four years for an assignment in Europe.

mander, recently approved a new Brigade Education Reenlistment Incentive Program. This incentive will be available to initial term and mid-career soldiers reenlisting for current station stabilization (Option E-2) for a maximum of 6 years within the first month of reenlistment eligibility. Soldiers will receive 12 months stabilization from ETS and two school options. For example, a spring and a short summer semester are authorized. This option must be consistent with mission requirements. A similar option is being offered to career soldiers as well. For more details on this incentive, please see your brigade or battalion career

counselor.

For more information on Retention, please contact your respective Career Counselors:

704th MI Brigade:
SFC Willene Orr - (301) 677-0164
741st MI Battalion:
SSG Veronica Ingle - (301) 677-0157
742nd MI Battalion:
SSG Cynthia Kling - (301) 677-0117
743rd MI Battalion:
SGT Pamela Smith - (303) 677-5050

Local NCO preps for Special Forces

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

Sergeant James Feldmayer is leaving and couldn't be happier.

It's not that he hates or even dislikes Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, he's just looking ahead. Being a career-oriented soldier, he set goals and then obtains them. So forgive Feldmayer for being a little excited about earning the opportunity to go to the Special Forces qualification course.

Things started heading in the right direction the day the Philadelphia native joined the Army.

"I went to college for two years and really wasn't going anywhere with it," said Feldmayer, platoon sergeant, Receiving and Holding Platoon. "So I decided to enlist in the Army."

If Feldmayer's plan was to get more serious with his life and party less, he set himself up for success by enlisting as a Chinese linguist.

"It took a while to get the hang of it," he said. "But once you get familiar with the language, it really isn't that difficult."

Here is the quick summary: Feldmayer left the life of fraternity parties after only two years to join the Army and became a Chinese linguist. He got a solid grasp on that and asked for additional responsibilities. His supervisor, Sgt. 1st Class Xavier Walker, noncommissioned officer in charge, R&H platoon, had so much confidence in him, that he made Feldmayer a platoon sergeant, a job Walker normally reserved for senior staff sergeants.

However, Feldmayer wasn't satisfied.

"I was at a crossroads in my career," said Feldmayer, platoon sergeant, Receiving and Holding Platoon. "So when it was time to reenlist I sat down and thought about all of my options. The more I thought about going Special Forces, the more I wanted to do it."

Feldmayer traveled to Camp Mackall and Fort Bragg, N.C. for his twenty-five day Special Forces Assessment and Selection last September.

"The assessment period was challenging both mentally and physically," he said. "You're challenged mentally because they don't let you sleep much during that time. You don't really know what your schedule is going to be like. One day you will complete a ruck march and then have some down time. The next time, they'll have something lined up for you right after the ruck march. It's a lot of seeing how you respond to stressful situations."

"I knew I was ready. I lift weights five or six times a week and I either run or ruck march every day. The challenge was getting used to doing things with the lack of sleep," he said.

On average two-thirds of the soldiers who arrive at the assessment fail to qualify for Special Forces. Feldmayer beat the odds and made it through the assessment. Up next, Feldmayer heads to airborne school in May. Then he'll head off to reclassify to a Special Forces medical sergeant.

His peers see no reason why Feldmayer won't continue to excel.

"Sergeant Feldmayer is an excellent NCO," Walker said. "He is very competent and very much a go-getter. He is the NCO who I can count on to come up with a last-minute solution right away."

One of the best traits about Feldmayer is his approachability, according to Walker.

"His soldiers know they can go to him if they need help," he said. "His soldiers often tell me that they



photo by Spc. Brian Murphy

Sgt. James Feldmayer keeps up on his soldier skills by routinely going road marching and teaching land navigation classes to fellow Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade troops.

don't want to leave the (R&H platoon) because they don't want to leave him. That says a lot about him and his ability to be a great leader."

The only downside Walker can see is replacing Feldmayer.

"He's always has a great attitude," he said. "He always wants to succeed and he's constantly looking for additional responsibility. His soldiers could learn a lot from him. He set his goals, and achieved them. Of course, I wanted him to succeed, but he has been such a great asset here. Finding someone to do everything he's done will not be easy."

Walker isn't alone in his personal assessment of Feldmayer.

"No matter what the task," said Capt. Paul Kirschbaum, commander, HHC, 704th MI Brigade. "Sergeant Feldmayer can always be counted on to

get the job done. He is one of the most professional and level-headed noncommissioned officers I have had the pleasure of working with during my time in the Army."

Feldmayer has been in the Army for six years, but with the way things are going, he could see himself in fatigues for a while.

"Odds are I'll be in the Army for at least twenty years," Feldmayer said. "I like being in the Army. I like what I do and I like the stability of knowing I have a job. I'm not really into making money just for the sake of making money. Being in the Army I know I earned my paycheck."

Whatever his motivation, Feldmayer continues to set his goals, reach them and then raise the bar a little higher, a formula that has done nothing but good things for the future Special Forces leader.

Enlisted Spouses Club serves community

The Enlisted Spouses Club here is open to husbands and wives of active-duty or retired enlisted personnel in grades E-1 through E-9 in all branches of the military.

The purpose of the club is to provide activities of social and recreational interest to its members and to foster and preserve the ideals of good fellowship. One of its primary focuses is the volunteer service it provides the community.

Among the good works the club performs are the college scholarships it offers annually to children of active-duty or retired personnel of all ranks whose family resides in the area.

The members also support activities to include the American Red Cross, Army Community Service, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, Community Life programs such as Adopt an Angel and area schools for whom the club has donated everything from band uniforms to football helmets. Club members even donated wigs to children who'd lost their hair due to cancer treatments.

The club also holds an annual Christmas party for local children featuring free refreshments, games and crafts.

One of the primary means of fund raising is the Post Thrift Shop on Ernie Pyle Street near Llewellyn Avenue.

All our money from the Thrift Shop has to go to charity. It's in our constitution, said club parliamentarian Evelyn Silva.

Silva is one of ESC's five lifetime members. The others are Leokadyn Rosnack, Betty Frye, Mary Frances Hoban and Reva Sweeney. Overall, the club has about 30 members.

Silva says the club has a lot of fun and she credits that to its members.

I think they are the type of women and men who feel I've done something worthwhile to contribute to the community I live in. They have a really good sense of themselves because they've given of themselves, she said.

Currently the club's only male member is Lee Williams, spouse of Installation Command Sgt. Maj. Sandra Matlock-Williams.

The club would like more men to join.

We'd love to have them, said Silva. We'd also love to get younger members. We do a lot of fun stuff. We have an annual membership picnic each summer at Burba Lake. We recently had a special fund raiser and took a trip to New York to see the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall.

It's not all work, Silva said. But I'll be honest with you, it's a lot of work.



photo by Francis Gardler

Enlisted Spouses Club members run the Post Thrift Shop as a fund raiser. Profits from the shop provide money for scholarships and donations to Community Life and other programs. Thrift Shop Manager Mary Frances Hoban (from left), Thrift Shop Board President Melissa Allen, Enlisted Spouses Club President Carole Reynolds and Thrift Shop Assistant Manager Leokadyn Rosnack stand between the racks of merchandise at the shop.

Then, she added, But for us, it's not really work. We all enjoy it very much.

Carole Reynolds is the club president; Brenda Bower, vice-president; Sheri Conant, treasurer and Donna Ashlock, recording and corresponding secretary.

Reynolds recently received a special letter from the Secretary of the Army for her nomination for a civilian humanitarian award presented by Installation Commander Col. Michael J. Stewart.

As best as can be determined, since there are no records, the club was established here in the late 1940s immediately following World War II.

The ESC took over full responsibility of the Post Thrift Shop in 1996, according to Silva.

Prior to that it was a joint effort between us and the Officers' Wives' Club, she said.

The Thrift Shop operates Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thurs-

days and the first Saturday of each month (unless it falls on a holiday weekend. Then it's open the second Saturday.)

It takes items on consignment from ID card holders and donations. Donations are sold to benefit the local community and prevent usable items from being wasted in local landfills.

It also features a popular Bag Day. Customers may fill a large brown paper bag for \$2. There is no limit on the number of bags and no military ID card is required to shop or volunteer at the Thrift Shop.

The shop needs volunteers. Opportunities include assisting with office duties, helping customers make consignments, sorting and pricing donations, pricing down expired items, tidying up the sales area, working on quality control and helping the cashier.

Baby-sitting reimbursement is available and the experience may be used on a job resume.

Last year, the club provided 15 \$1,500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors and 10 \$1,000 scholarships to people already enrolled in college.

It will offer scholarships again this year.

For the high school scholarships, any high school senior who is the unmarried, dependent child of any military member - active-duty, retired or deceased - whose family resides in the Fort Meade area is eligible to compete.

To qualify for the high school scholarships, applicants must submit their grade transcripts for their junior and senior years, an essay requesting the scholarship, a letter of recommendation from a teacher or community leader and a xerox copy of their ID card and that of their sponsor. The club also offers scholarships to eligible college students.

Requests should be mailed to The Fort Meade Enlisted Spouses Club, P.O. Box 105, Fort Meade, Md., 20755 to be received no later than March 31. Any requester who receives scholarships totaling \$5,000 or more, exclusive of the ESC grant, will become ineligible for the award.

For more information on the ESC scholarships, call Charlynn Sunderland at (410) 519-7876.

To volunteer for the Thrift Shop, call (410) 672-3575.

To join the club, call Reynolds at (410) 674-0206 or Silva at (301) 621-9445.

Meetings are held the second Monday of each month (excluding holidays) at 7 p.m. at the Fort Meade Rod & Gun Club, Building T-04, Range Road.

(This article is courtesy of the SoundOFF!)



AP photo

Commander in Chief speaks to servicemembers

To the armed forces of the United States and the men and women whose work supports them: Your service in the cause of freedom is both noble and extraordinary.

Because of you, America is strong and the flame of freedom burns brighter than at any time in history. Your country can never repay you for the sacrifices and hardships you endure. But we are grateful for the liberties we enjoy every day because of your service.

As your commander in chief, I will always support you and your families so that this great nation continues to have the greatest armed forces in the history of the world. Thank you.

George W. Bush

704th soldiers invade Capsí practice

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

A handful of soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade received the rare opportunity to escape from military life to see the Washington Capitals in action, when they visited Piney Orchard Feb. 22.

The soldiers arrived as the players were taking the ice for an afternoon practice session and then visited with the players in the locker room afterwards.

"This was an opportunity of a lifetime," said Spc. Stephney Fulkerson, non-communication signals analyst, HHC, 704th MI Brigade. "There were so many questions I wanted to ask but couldn't. I was so star-struck."

One player on the Caps roster with a unique perspective of being both a fan and a player is center Jeff Halpern, who is originally from Potomac, Maryland. The second-year center grew up as a Capitals fan, and now gets to play for his favorite team.

"I've been a Capsí fan for as long as I can remember," Halpern said. "This is a great organization. I remember going to games at the old Caps Center and cheering them on as a fan. It's a thrill to actually be out there playing with the players you grew up watching."

After beginning the season with only three wins in their first 18 games, the Capitals have gone 29-9-5 and have the National Hockey League's best record since Dec. 1. The Capitals are on course to capture their second-consecutive Southeast Division title due to their current undefeated streak of 12, matching the longest by any team in the NHL this season and two shy of the all-time franchise mark. Also, the Capitals' recent 5-0-1 West Coast swing was the most successful road trip in franchise history. It doesn't stop there though. The Capitals are 16-5-0 in one-goal games this season, and are 9-0-4 when Halpern scores a goal.

However, Halpern doesn't want fans reading too far into that statistic.

"I think it's just coincidence," he said. "We lost the first five games I scored a goal in last year. It's just one of those weird stats."

Besides Halpern, where are the wins coming from? Unlike last year's Capitals team, which relied heavily on stellar net minding from Olaf Kolzig, the production is coming from everywhere.

A team notorious for their lack of scoring has tallied 41 goals during their last 12 games. Right wing Peter Bondra, who leads the Capitals with 36 goals this season, is third in the NHL in scoring. And he isn't the only Capitalsí player lighting the goal lamp this season. The Capitals are the only NHL team with 10 double-digit goal scorers. Center Adam Oates is third in the NHL with 50 assists this year. Capitalsí all-star Sergei Gonchar's 53 goals since the start of the 1998-99 season are the most among all NHL defensemen.

The Capitals have the second best power play in the league. Washington has scored at least one power-play goal in 10 straight games, a feat they have not been able to do since scoring in 15-straight games back in 1991. Oates leads the NHL with 28 power-play assists and Bondra leads the NHL with 17 power-play goals.

"It's been kind of strange," said Kolzig, of the Capsí recent goal surge. "You're so used to playing in games decided by one goal. Sometimes when you have a three-goal lead that you take it for granted and you get too relaxed. As a result, sometimes the games end up closer than they should be. It's something I'm going to have to get used to."

Kolzig speaks from experience. Last season he earned the Vezina Trophy as the top goalie in the NHL while receiving very little goal support from his teammates.

"It was a shock," said Kolzig of the award. "It took about a week for it to sink in. To be a part of history and among the legends who have won it. To know that you'll be a part of history forever, it's an honor."

Capitalsí fans can't help but feel a little *dèjà vu* this year. Last season the Capitals slumped early, heated up in December and finished the year as one of the NHL's elite. All indications point towards a repeat performance this season, with the team looking to advance further into the playoffs than last year's first-round exodus.

"We're a different team this year," Kolzig said. "We're doing it differently this time around. We're winning a lot more games with our power play and penalty killing, whereas last year we did it five-on-five. Winning games that way takes a lot out of you. We weren't as physically or mentally fit for the playoffs as we will be this year. It's weird to say, but the wins have come a little easier this year."

And with the winning, hockey has become more fun for the Caps. The day the HHC, 704th MI Brigade soldiers visited the Capitals practice was Joe Reekie's 36th birthday. Reekie, a notorious team prankster, received four pies to his face from teammates throughout the morning.

"We're a close-knit team," Kolzig said. "Winning brings a team together, especially after our undefeated two-week road trip. We've basically had the same team for the last two years, so we



photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

Washington Capitals goalie Olaf Kolzig greets soldiers from the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade during their visit to Piney Orchard Feb. 22. The soldiers watched the Capsí practice and then visited the locker room afterwards.

know each other well."

But don't confuse the Caps light mood during practice as complacency.

"We hope this year has a better ending," Halpern said. "We left last season very disappointed. We've worked hard this year to put ourselves in a better situation come playoff time."

And once they get there, the mission is simple.

"We're playing to win it all," said Capitals left wing Steve Konowalchuk. "I'm not saying that to be cocky. We know we can play with any team out there and we want to win the Stanley Cup."



Capitals defenseman Joe Reekie celebrated his 36th birthday with his other family -- his teammates. Reekie looks to wipe his face off with winger Ulf Dahlen's jeans after Dahlen delivered a birthday pie to his face.



(From left to right) Washington Capitals players Jeff Halpern, Craig Billington, Ken Klee, Olaf Kolzig and James Black take a minute to stretch prior to practice.



Caps goalie Craig Billington makes the save.



Caps right wing Richard Zednik signs an autograph for Spc. Stephney Fulkerson in the Caps locker room.



Capitals coach Ron Wilson addresses his players during a break in the action.



Capitals defenseman Joe Reekie blasts a shot on goal during practice Feb. 22.

Around the Army

Fort Benning tests officer basic training

FORT BENNING, Ga. (Army News Service) ó Lieutenants attending the Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Benning are now more than halfway through the first class of its kind.

The class is testing a possible new way to train Army officers in basic soldier skills and leadership, officials said. In BOLC, officers from all branches will learn basic soldiering skills together instead of within their specific field.

“The focus is leadership and to instill the warrior ethos, bringing everyone to Fort Benning ó male, female, whatever branch they are ó for seven weeks before they go off to their branch training,” said Maj. Jim Crider, commander of B Company, 2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment, and the cadre conducting the class.

“We aren’t teaching anything really new,” Crider said. “We’re stressing leadership and developmental counseling to a much higher degree earlier in this course. We’ve also added a week of patrolling,” he said.

The intent is to ground lieutenants in some basic infantry skills to practice leadership, Crider said. He explained that this is accomplished with more hands-on training than in the past.

More than 75 percent of the course is spent in the field environment, he said.

“We might teach a class on how



photo by Spc. Brian Murphy

Lieutenants now join enlisted soldiers as basic training attendees, as the first officers make their way through the Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Benning, Ga.

to counsel, but then they execute it in the field,” Crider said.

The pilot class is fashioned after training done by other countries as well as the Marine Corps, said Maj. Dana Foley, executive officer for 2nd Bn., 11th Inf. Regt.

The Marine Corps also does this as a welcome to the military. It brings everyone to one course that is grounded in certain leadership principals and some “hooah” aspects of the Army to get their attention,” he said.

“It lets them know they joined something special and it gets them enthusiastic about it,” Foley said.

“I think it will improve the skill of the lieutenants as we go to the basic course,” he said. “They will all come to one place where they will be grounded in certain Army values, ethics and leadership.”

So far the testing of the new program is going well, Crider said.

The class that began Jan. 21 is all male and all infantrymen. The next class, beginning Feb. 25, will have 40 lieutenants from branches other than infantry and it will include 14 women.

“All we are doing is testing the program of instruction ó the same things we intend to teach in a couple

of years from now,” he said.

“We’re testing the program to see if we are teaching the right amount of things and the correct subjects,” he said.

More testing will follow to see if the new program can work, Foley said. After the two classes this year, there will be two more test classes next January and February, Foley said. The course should be fully up, branch immaterial, by October 2002, he said.

Plans actually call for the Officer Basic Leader Course to officially begin during the 2003 fiscal year, Foley said.

NCO Journal back in print after 3 year hiatus

FORT BLISS, Texas (Army News Service) ó The only magazine devoted to the noncommissioned officer corps in the U.S. Army made its return to the field this month after three years of non-publication in hardcopy form.

The NCO Journal, a quarterly publication that made its first debut in 1991, is a professional development tool, officials said, designed to provide a forum for the open exchange of ideas and information, support training, education and development of noncommissioned officers.

“As part of the magazine’s mission, it also fosters a closer bond among the NCO corps,” said Staff Sgt. Donald Sparks, editor-in-chief of the NCO Journal. “This magazine is long overdue in getting it back to our Army and the NCO Corps. For the last three years, there have been numerous requests and correspondence concerning the magazine’s status.”

Sparks spearheaded the magazine’s return by designing the entire publication, which he said was no easy task. After the three years when the magazine was sporadically posted on the web, there were few articles to consider when funding was restored for printing, he said.

“The success of the NCO Journal depends pri-

marily on the NCOs in the field,” Sparks said. “Three years is a long time for any publication to recover after not printing, but as word got out about the magazine’s return, articles made their way to my desk.”

The newest journal features articles ranging from the Army’s current promotion policy, the indefinite re-enlistment policy, building on the Army’s seven Core Values and an interview with Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley. It also includes a book review (a regular feature) and letters to the editor.

“More than anything else, the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy wanted to ensure that the magazine would be a quality product for the NCOs,” Sparks said. “When designing this magazine, our mindset was creating a publication which NCOs would be proud to have in their hands and praise as their own.”

The NCO Journal themes for this fiscal year have already been identified: Spring ó Training/Readiness; Summer ó Noncommissioned Officer Education System; and Fall ó NCO/Officer relationship. The deadline for the upcoming spring issue is Feb. 28 for articles and artwork.

Sparks also admitted that not everyone may get

the magazine right away because of an outdated mailing and distribution list. Its target circulation is one magazine for every seven noncommissioned officers.

“Distribution is definitely something we’re going to resolve to ensure that the magazine reaches its target audience,” Sparks said. “At the same time, once the magazines get to the unit, hopefully they aren’t stashed away in a soldier’s private library. We want to make sure that all NCOs get access to the information inside the magazine.”

By publishing articles and letters from the field, NCOs will be able to express their views, expertise, knowledge and experiences for all to share and learn, Sparks said.

“As stated in the magazine, I can assure to the NCO corps, that the NCO Journal is both informative and entertaining to the reader,” Sparks said. “The continued success of this magazine is up to every soldier wearing chevrons in the Army. We need the NCO corps to put pen to pad so we can continue to develop.”

For more information about the NCO Journal or to send articles to the magazine, e-mail atss-sj-ncojournal@bliss.army.mil or call DSN 978-9068

Around the Army

Warrant candidates begin stress evaluation

BY WO1. T. ALAN MOORE
Student pilot, Fort Rucker, Ala.

On day one, the wake-up call was led by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Christopher Dodd, commander of the 1st Warrant Officer Company.

About half a dozen of his Training, Advising and Counseling officers, or TAC officers, all in PT attire, waited at the bottom of the stairs for the clock to tick its way to 0430. Upstairs, 72 candidates, snug in their bunks, were blissfully unaware that the wake-up committee was assembling.

At precisely 0430, the wake up crew followed Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ira Brown, the TAC team leader for Class 2001-03, as he ascended the stairwell. Carrying a bullhorn, a clipboard and a class roster, Brown tiptoed into the long hallway and engaged the siren on the bullhorn. An ear-piercing wail shattered the silence of slumber and filled the air with instant chaos and urgency. The siren's scream jarred the candidates to the realization of training day 1 ó stress day.

¡Get up! Get Up,¡ the TACs barked. ¡Get on the wall!¡

Sleepy heads stumbled from their beds. Each weary body, fueled by a sudden burst of adrenaline, appeared to move 10 times faster than the brain. The candidates lined themselves on the wall outside their rooms. Ideally, the candidates would all come to the rigid position of attention ó every head, rump, and heel touching the wall, in accordance with the Warrant Officer Candidatesí Guide. That didn't happen.

The day's objective and subjective assessments of the candidates have begun. Brown writes notes on his clipboard. As the team of TAC officers walked up and down the hallway, very

few of them were given the greeting of the day. Candidates, not three feet from the commander, failing to give him the courtesy of the greeting of the day?

Unbelievable.

Time is wasting ó 0440

The members of the class were given six minutes to brush their teeth, perform personal hygiene and change into PT shirts, BDU pants and running shoes. All watches and jewelry would be secured in the wall lockers, it was ordered. Furthermore, every candidate would report back on the wall with their military identification card in their right back pocket and each would wear their dog tags and carry a full canteen of water.

Brown is notorious for issuing detailed orders and demanding that a list of actions to be taken immediately. It's all part of evaluating whether or not candidates listen to what they're being asked to do, whether or not they pay attention to detail, he said. He and the TAC team are trying to stress out the candidates. It was working.

¡We deliberately put too many tasks on them because we want to see how they prioritize, how they deal with those demands,¡ Brown admits. ¡The first two weeks of training are very high stress, some of that comes from the TAC officers, most of it comes from the candidates not living up to the standards.¡

Most of these candidates have impeccable records as NCOs, they were solid performers in their field or else they wouldn't have been selected to be a WOC. But, Brown is quick to point out, the demands upon an officer are very different, making it possible that a few stellar NCOs might make substandard officers. That's where subjective evaluations come into play at the WOCS.

¡Times up, why are you not already on the wall,¡ asked a TAC officer who had been watching the clock. The candidates

scurried into position, but it was too late.

Several candidates came out of their rooms wearing a canteen on their pistol belts. That was not what the TAC officers wanted to see, they specifically said candidates would carry a full canteen of water. ¡

This was failure to follow instructions.

Only 15 minutes into the first day of training and already things were not going very well.

First Formation ó 0451

The candidates were trying to get themselves into a formation for accountability. The class first sergeant called for the count, but he botched the command of execution.

To make matters worse, the squad leaders accepted the incorrect command and began to report any way.

Another red mark on the class record.

When the class PT officer displayed some difficulty in extending the formation for stretching and warm-up exercises, the senior TAC officer, CW3 Norbert Schmidt took over.

¡You know it's a sad day when I have to take over this formation because you don't know what the regulations say about drill and ceremony,¡ he told the candidates.

Moving out ó 0509

Eventually, the candidates lined in three ranks set out on the first day of physical training. A mile down the road, they gathered on a baseball field for countless push-ups, sit-ups and grass drills.

After more than an hour and a half of intense PT led by the TAC officers, they ran back to the company area. Just when the candidates were convinced it was over for the day, the TAC team took them on a one-mile jaunt to the infamous pit. ¡The pit is a red clay depression about the size of a football field, where candidates did more exercises with rifles and still more grass drills ó roll left, get up, get down, roll right. When the candidates started to

get tired, the TAC team was relentless in applying the stress.

¡How can you come to an officer producing school in such sad physical condition,¡ asked a TAC officer.

What may seem like hazing to an outsider is anything but, said CW2 Aaron Graff, a TAC officer who is on the first training day for the 50th time. ¡Absolutely not,¡ he said. ¡Everything we do here is a tool for evaluating these candidates. In order to really assess their leadership ability, we have to put them in stressful situations. We can't shoot live rounds at them, but to get an understanding of how they might perform in combat, we look at how they perform when they are physically, mentally and emotionally tired.¡

The stress, the PT, the confusion, everything, right down to the bullhorn wake-up call is all part of the master plan to assess candidates, said Brown.

¡We are looking for leaders who are accountable and responsible for their actions and decisions,¡ he said. ¡If you've never had to deal with this type of chaos and function in spite of it, then you don't know how you will handle the situation. How you handle that defines your character as a leader. ¡

After over four miles of running, two hours of grass drills, nobody quit. It appears that at least for now, all 72 candidates, though they were stressed, exhausted and perhaps even overwhelmed, still wanted to be warrant officers. It was 0700.

(NOTE: Today there are more than 25,000 Army warrant officers in the Army. If you think the way of the warrant might be right for you, the U.S Army Recruiting Command is the best place to begin your quest to become a warrant officer. Their web site has all the details a soldier would need <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant>.)

Finance counselors help soldiers overcome debts

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) ó Soldiers were in debt to the tune of nearly \$37 million during 1999, according to records of Army financial assistance counselors.

The Army's Consumer Affairs and Financial Assistance Program helped reduce this debt by more than \$11 million.

Buying on credit and not planning ahead for the future is how soldiers often end up in trouble, according to financial assistance counselors.

¡We have to stop thinking about what we want today and start thinking about what we want for tomorrow,¡ said Mildred S. Quinones, manager of the Consumer Affairs and Financial Assistance Program at the Soldiers and Family Support Center at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Despite soldiers' genuine desire to be financially stable, some soldiers are burdened beyond their means, said Isaac Templeton Jr., manager of the Army's Consumer Affairs and Financial Assistance Program.

If societal influences to buy on credit are not enough,

counselors said the economic well-being of soldiers is further challenged by frequent change. Whether it's being assigned to high-cost areas, lengthy deployments or the need to take care of a family, they said soldiers shoulder a heavy responsibility.

Among newly enlisted soldiers, 26 percent are married. Some of them enter military service with past debt, and others acquire it in the course of their careers.

¡Commanders know how much money young families make, and they know how much rent costs in that particular area,¡ Templeton said. ¡The first duty station is usually the first time new soldiers have ever received a paycheck, and they have the financial responsibility of taking care of themselves and their families. If you look at how much young soldiers make and how much the necessities add up to, you'll see that there's not very much money left over. ¡

With that in mind, the Army has developed a new yardstick with which to measure soldier well-being. This framework encompasses the idea that the institutional needs of the

Army cannot be met without also fulfilling soldiers' personal, physical and mental needs.

Lt. Col. Steven Shively, chief of personnel readiness for the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, said the new Army Well-Being Program is the basis upon which leaders will ask Congress for higher pay and benefits. Goals include a closure of the pay gap between enlisted and officers, a dislocation allowance for soldiers reporting to their first duty stations, better housing and an increase in the basic housing allowance to eliminate out-of-pocket costs.

In light of these goals and the advice available from financial counselors at worldwide installations, Templeton said, soldiers should always keep the end of their military careers in mind.

¡They should start planning for their transition, from the day they enter the Army,¡ he said. ¡They've got to ask themselves: 'What do I want to have when I leave?'¡ For some, the answer is just getting out of debt, which puts money back into the pocket so they can start saving.¡

Around Town

Meet the pandas: Tian Tian, Mei Xiang

Tian Tian and Mei Xiang arrived at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., from the China Research and Conservation Center for the Giant Panda in Wolong, Sichuan Province Dec. 6.

The pandas are on a 10-year loan, under an agreement with the China Wildlife Conservation Association. They will be the focus of an ambitious research, conservation, and breeding program designed to enhance the probability of survival of this rare species. A primary goal will be to establish a self-sustaining population outside of the wild, as this may be critical to the long-term survival of pandas in nature.

Hsing-Hsing and Ling-Ling were the National Zoo's first pair of giant pandas. They were a gift of friendship to the people of the United States from the People's Republic of China, to commemorate President Nixon's historic visit to China. The pandas arrived on April 16, 1972, and were an instant hit. During their time at the Zoo, more than 70 million visitors came to see them. Hsing-Hsing and Ling-Ling lived to be one of the oldest giant panda pairs outside of China.

Although the Zoo's breeding efforts did not result in a surviving cub, the study and care of Hsing-Hsing and Ling-Ling contributed significantly to our knowledge of giant panda biology and behavior. This knowledge will continue to grow with the addition of the National Zoo's new giant pandas, Tian Tian and Mei Xiang, according to <http://pandas.si.edu>.



photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

Tian Tian, whose name means more and more, is a three-and-a-half year old Giant Panda from the Wolong Panda Research and Breeding Center in China. Tian Tian is one of the two Giant Pandas at the National Zoo.



Mei Xiang (left) and Tian Tian spend some time playing together at the National Zoo.



For those individuals who aren't big panda fans, the National Zoo has plenty of other different species to visit, such as camels.



Mei Xiang, whose name means beautiful fragrance, spends some time in a tree. The two-and-a-half year old and Tian Tian have been at the National Zoo since Dec. 6.

SAFETY BRIEF

BY CAPT. ANTIONETTE N. RAINEY
SAFETY OFFICER

It was noon-time on an 80-degree summer day. Sharon Barbano was taking a slow jog along a familiar, crowded roadway in a pricey Boston suburb when she came up behind a man wearing a long woolen coat.



Something didn't seem right about that on a hot day, she recalls, so she crossed the street and continued jogging. Then, all of a sudden, she heard footsteps behind her.

I looked back, and there was this guy, screaming "I'm going to kill you," she recalls. Panicked, she began running for her life. After refusing an offer from a stranger to hop into his car, she yelled to a bicyclist to call the police. They arrived within minutes and collared the man, who had just escaped from a local psychiatric facility and was carrying a concealed knife under his coat.

Assaults on walkers and runners, especially sexual assaults on women, are not uncommon, and many of these incidents do not have endings as happy as this one. But

Sharon is no ordinary jogger. As a former world-class runner, a Trustee of the Women's Sports Foundation, and Editor-in-Chief of FitForAll.com, Sharon has thought a great deal about fitness and safety. She escaped her knife-carrying pursuer, she says, by following several of her own rules.

The most important rule is to be constantly aware of your surroundings so you can react quickly to potential danger, Sharon explains. Her other top rules?

Stick to familiar neighborhoods and identify points of escape—perhaps a house or store—but also vary your route so it is not predictable to a potential predator.

Tell family or friends where you are going to run, and don't deviate from that plan.

Run in the daylight. Keep in mind that the darkness before sunrise can harbor the same dangers as the darkness after sunset. If you can't run during daylight hours, consider taking your workout indoors. If you absolutely must run in the dark, stick to well-lit roads, and wear reflective clothing.

Sharon also maintains that attitude counts. People, and especially women, she says, should run with a strong, purposeful attitude. The more assertive you are, the less likely you are to be bothered. When



photo by Spc. Brian Murphy

When running, stick to familiar routes and run in groups whenever possible.

you pass people, look them in the eye so you don't appear vulnerable. When your instincts tell you that an area or a person is unsafe, turn around, cross the street, or ask

someone for help. Trust your gut feelings. You shouldn't be afraid of running or walking. But you should make sure your runs or walks are fun and safe.

CIVILIAN'S CORNER

BY SAM JONES
BRIGADE SENIOR CIVILIAN

How do you measure up?

Over the course of the last two years, the administration has taken surveys of government employees understanding of goals for performance and recognition as well as rewards based on merit.

In the year 2000, only 31 percent of employees said they understood what constituted good performance and only a little more than a third said recognition and rewards are based on merit. Are you part of the 65-70 percent that do not understand or believe these concepts?

If so, I would like to ask you a few questions. When was the last time you looked at and truly evaluated your own performance plan? Is it the same as last year and the year before (and for some, several years in a row)? Have you ever insisted your supervisor read your job description? Have you ever asked your supervisor to help you write your performance objectives? Has your organization changed since your initial employment? Are you waiting for someone else to fix it?



Kind of ugly questions aren't they. The fact is most of us do wait for someone else to fix it. That way if it doesn't get fixed, we can complain about it. If my supervisor doesn't care, why should I? Believe it or not, you have a great deal to say about your job description, your performance plan and yes, even your own performance appraisal.

The first step in creating an excellent performance plan is to look very closely at what you do today, not what you were doing last year or the year prior or in some extreme cases what you were even hired to do. If your organization has changed over the last year or two (in keeping with Army Transformation I would bet it has) your current job description could very well be outdated. Carefully read your current job/position description.

If you do not have a copy, go to www.cpol.army.mil and click on FASCLASS. Once there, click on National Capital Region then search by organization (i.e. 704th Military Intelligence Brigade). There you will find all the positions that have been classified within your organization. After you have carefully reviewed your position, ask yourself if that is what you truly do today. If the answer is no, get with your supervisor, rater and senior rater and let them know you would like to review your job. Analyze what you do and write notes to refer to. Look closely at the major duties you perform in your daily operation. What

are you responsible for, your authority in making decisions and the effect those decisions will have. Also look very carefully at the guidance you receive or refer to in making decisions. Probably the most important of all is the knowledge you require to function in your position.

Work closely with your supervisory chain to ensure you are capturing all the daily routines, actions, and responsibilities you are charged with. Have your supervisors work closely with the activity career program manager for your specialty. Capture the same information for your annual performance objectives and individual performance standards. Know what is expected of you and most importantly, what you expect of yourself.

Supervisors, raters and senior raters; challenge your civilian work force. Ensure your civilians are transforming along with the Army of today. If you take the time to review, analyze and adjust your civilian's evaluation report support forms throughout the rating period, there will be no question as to what constitutes good performance. Only then will recognition and rewards truly be based on merit. How do you measure up?

Welcome to the team:

Please welcome Ms. Patti Shelley to the 704th MI Brigade. She is the new brigade assistant personnel and administration officer. If you get a chance, stop by and say hello.

743rd soldiers play ěhookie,í head for slopes



Capt. Jill Wagner (left) and Capt. Maggie Musser smile before heading down the mountain.



courtesy photos

Maj. Dave May takes in the scenery prior to his morning ski during the 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion ski trip to the Winter Park Ski Resort Jan 17.

BY MAJ. DAVE MAY

743rd Military Intelligence Battalion

Leading the way in special activities for their soldiers, the 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion sponsored a ski trip to Winter Park Ski Resort Jan. 17.

Since the 743rd resides on Buckley Air Force Base, just outside of Denver, Colorado, and the soldiers work hand in hand with the other three services, the trip was open to soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines alike.

The Marines declined to participate although they were heard yelling, ěTake the hill!í as the bus departed Buckley!

The day started with day workers and groggy-eyed shift workers standing with skis, poles and coffee in hand, waiting in the early morning cold (20 degrees) for the bus to arrive.

As people settled into their plush, 50ñpassenger cruiser, equipped with all the amenities including a bath-

room, VCR and TV screens throughout. Shortly into the trek, someone popped in the Warren Miller film, ěFifty,í and for the two-hour ride everyone was inspired by clips of extreme skiing and snowboarding. Although, the beginners were thinking twice about whether taking this trip was such a good idea after all.

Just as the video was ending, the bus pulled into the parking lot, and everyone poured out onto the slopes. The group skied under perfect conditions: gorgeous blue skies and packed powder. It didnít matter if you were a snow boarder or a skier, it just didnít get any better ñ after all, a bad day of skiing is better than a good day at work any day.

Many took a break for lunch in one of the resortís mountaintop lodges. Sitting at well over 12,500 feet, the view was spectacular. With a huge fire glowing in the background, the group shared stories of their skiing prowess and domination of the mountain ñ all greatly exaggerated of course. There were also a few folks who were just happy to have all of their parts still in

working order, although the day wasnít over yet. The afternoon was filled with more of the same ñ snow, speed and way-too-much fun. (Lt. Col. Mark Quantock, battalion commander, was overheard saying as he took off down a ěBlueí slope, ěNow THIS is what I call command!í)

When the day was done, everyone piled back on the bus, tired but very content. They rode back with the movie ěCliff Hangerí playing in the deck ñ a perfect accent to some of the roads the bus was traversing (signs along the road read ěAVALANCHE ZONE ñ STAY IN VEHICLEí). Everyone made it back safely with no broken bones and egos intact. The biggest gripe was the fact that they had to wait another year until the next ski trip. Quantock, assured the group that there was more to adventure training in Colorado than just winter sports, and hinted that a white water rafting trip was in the works for the summertime. Sure is great to be in Colorado and part of the 743rd MI Battalion.



VISION STATEMENT

704th Military Intelligence Brigade



Be the premier Army team providing full-spectrum signals intelligence and operational support to warfighters and national command authorities ěHERE AND EVERYWHERE.í